



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

April 24, 2015

AL TSA: ALF #2015-007
ACCESS TO SECURED OUTDOOR SPACES

Dear Assisted Living Facility Administrator:

The intent of this notification is to establish when Assisted Living Facilities may temporarily restrict resident access to secured outdoor spaces under WAC 388-78A-2380(9)(a), which requires outdoor spaces to be accessible to residents without assistance. When resident health and safety is at risk facilities may secure the doors that allow entry into the designated outdoor space under specific circumstances.

This limited allowance only applies to facilities that operate areas of restricted egress under [WAC 388-78A-2380: Restricted egress](#). Access to secured outdoor spaces may be temporarily restricted when there is evident risk to resident health and safety during times of inclement weather, dangerous construction and/or maintenance activities. Temporary restriction may mean the use of mechanical locks, electronic locks or access control systems, or other operational methods of restricting access.

The facility must develop policies and procedures for these situations in accordance with [WAC 388-78A-2600\(2\)\(i\): Policies and procedures](#). The facility may not use this limited allowance as the basis to reduce staffing levels. The facility must balance temporary access restrictions with the administrative requirements for supervision, monitoring, and accounting for residents; resident rights; resident service agreements; and, maintaining the facility free of hazards under [WAC 388-78A-2660: Resident rights](#), and [WAC 388-78A-2140: Negotiated service agreement contents](#).

If you have additional questions regarding this communication, please contact Jeanette K. Childress, Policy Program Manager, at (360) 725-2591.

Sincerely,

Carl I. Walters II., Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"